

Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project HERITAGE & CULTURAL

Introduction

Surveys for heritage resources in the Lostine Project area found that the corridor has valued historic properties has a long history of socio-cultural connections for many local people. The historic properties and stories took root in a different forest setting than today; one that had more open forest stands.

This report has three primary purposes:

1. To discuss the types of heritage values in the project area and the potential effects of the proposed actions on these values.
2. Identify mitigation measures and design criteria to reduce potential impacts from proposed actions.
3. To determine whether the proposed actions are consistent with Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Plan direction and the Lostine River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

Proposed Action

The primary purpose and need of this project is to address the public safety issues in the corridor. Secondly, the project will address risks to the other values in the corridor including infrastructure (homes, cabins, recreation improvements, roads), the natural resource values. To reduce risks to these values the Forest Service is proposing the following within the project area boundary (approx. 2,110 acres):

- Removing hazard trees along travel routes and adjacent to residential, recreation, historic and improvements (addressing immediate hazards to people and infrastructure).
- Thinning stand densities to decrease severity of wildfire and to improve forest resiliency (addressing both risks to ingress and egress in the corridor in the event of wildfire, and risk of insect and disease impacts over the long term).
- Removing fuels (surface fuels, ladder fuels, and small woody debris) throughout the corridor, particularly in the wildland urban interface.
- Creating small (less than 2 acre) gaps/openings in lodge pole stands to break up continuous fuels so fire could be managed more effectively.

The project will also assess opportunities to provide wood products for local markets, including firewood, through implementation.

Existing Condition

There are a number of culturally significant and heritage sites within the project area. The type, location, and number of these site is not releasable to the public at this time, or under the Freedom of Information Act.

Environmental Consequences

The below table reflects types of sites that may be found within the project area, the desired outcomes of the proposed actions, possible on sites treatments and treatments adjacent to the sites. The type of activities allowed within the site or adjacent are shown in green and red. Red 'no' indicates that type of activities would not be allowed. Green 'yes' indicates that type of activities that would be allowed.

Site Type	Desired outcomes	Possible On Site Treatments	Treatments adjacent to site	Vehicle Traffic	Skidding	Landing	Line Construction	Over-Snow Treatments	Staging
Denndroglyphs	Protect from Fire, Insect and Disease, Pine Encroachment	Thin conifers	Thin Conifers	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Artifact Scatters	Protect from High Intensity fire	Hand thinning	Mechanized Thinning	no	no	no	no	yes	no
structures	Protect From Fire, Neglect, hazard trees	Defensible space, hazard tree removal, continued use	Mechanized Thinning	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
corrals	Protect from fire, hazard trees	Defensible space, hazard tree removal	Mechanized Thinning	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
cambium peeled trees	Protect from Fire, Insect and Disease, Encroachment	Thin conifers	Mechanized Thinning	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
flumes and other historic wooden features	Protect from fire, hazard trees	Defensible space, hazard tree removal	Mechanized Thinning	no	no	no	no	no	no
historic communication features	Protect from fire, hazard trees	Defensible space, hazard tree removal	Mechanized Thinning	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
log troughs	Protect From Fire, Neglect, hazard trees	Hazard tree removal, hand thinning, continued use	Mechanized Thinning	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Cairns and Burials	Protect from High Intensity fire	Hand thinning	Mechanized Thinning	no	no	no	no	no	no

Consistencies

Based on the information documented in this report, the proposed actions under the Lostine Project are found to be consistent with Forest Plan as amended by the Lostine Wild and Scenic River Plan.

Tribal consultation letters were sent to the Nez Perce Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Cultural Resource Protection Manager Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Oregon State Archaeologist on 1/27/2016.

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